(ii) Tree Planting including that of fruit bearing is a permissible activity under NREGS on lands of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Small and Marginal Farmers; and

(iii) A new scheme 'Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana for afforestation on non forest lands involving Panchayati Raj Institutions' has been mooted by this Ministry includes agro-forestry/farm forestry as a component.

Tree plantation

1889. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plants are being cut at a very brisk rate during the last decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) whether Government is taking steps to plant more trees under PPP scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is no such report of large scale illegal tree cutting in the past decade from any State/UT Governments. But for the developmental activities etc. forest areas have been diverted involving felling of trees in the diverted area. The details of the forest area diverted in the last decade from 1st January, 2000 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) No "PPP Scheme" has been formulated for tree plantation.

Statement

Summery of forest land diverted State-wise under the forest conservation Act, 1980

(During the period from : 01.01.2000 to 03.12.2009)

Case Status : Approved (forest area more than 01 ha)

All Categories As On: 03.12.2009

Sl. No.	State/UT	Approved Area diverted (in ha)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	184.84
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13435.28
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	7831.16

1	2	3
4.	Assam	374.25
5.	Bihar	974.86
6.	Chandigarh	45.11
7.	Chhattisgarh	12871.39
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8.70
9.	Daman and Diu	0
10.	Delhi	22.82
11.	Goa	1229.88
12.	Gujarat	9702.16
13.	Haryana	6917.75
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4578.48
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
16.	Jharkhand	7524.32
17.	Karnataka	12729.34
18.	Kerala	10290.07
19.	Lakshadweep	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	15239.88
21.	Maharashtra	14863.46
22.	Manipur	90.22
23.	Meghalaya	125.07
24.	Mizoram	5601.64
25.	Nagaland	0
26.	Orissa	13557.02
27.	Puducherry	0
28.	Punjab	61197.05
29.	Rajasthan	9505.07
30.	Sikkim	1123.17
31.	Tamil Nadu	685.77

1	2	3
32.	Tripura	6424.43
33.	Uttar Pradesh	30858.58
34.	Uttaranchal	30642.50
35.	West Bengal	1078.65
	TOTAL	279712.92

Glaciers of major rivers

1890. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that glaciers of major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna is melting very fast leading to unavailability of drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The various scientific studies indicate that the glaciers of Himalaya including glaciers of major rivers like Ganga and Yamuna are receding at varying rates in different regions. Accordingly, due to melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the runoff of the Himalayan rivers may initially increase marginally. Thereafter, there may be decrease in water availability.

(c) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was launched in June 2008 which envisages the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system amongst its 8 national missions. This Mission would seek to understand weather and the extent to which the Himalayan glaciers are in recession and how the problem could be addressed.

A new research centre on Himalayan Glaciology has been established at Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun. Guidelines and best practices for the governance for sustaining Himalayan Eco-system has been developed and shared with all State Governments in the Himalayan Region.

Protection of environment and forest

1891. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the news-items published in The Hindu dated 15 November, 2009 captioned "Discrepancies in information on mining leases to Karnataka Minister";

(b) whether Government is aware that the empowered committee on environment of the Supreme Court has found *Prima Facie* discrepancies with regard to violation of forest and environment policies;